



Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

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WORK BEGINS ON NORTH UC BRANCH LIBRARY AND REC CENTER

San Diego - Mayor Dick Murphy, Councilmember Scott Peters and Councilmember Jim Madaffer today broke ground on a new North University Community Branch Library, taking another big step toward completing the city's \$312.3 million library building program.

"Building a new library for the North University City area is a part of our continuing plan to build a library system for the 21st century," said Mayor Murphy. "This new facility will provide first-class library services to the neighborhood, something we plan to do in every community of San Diego."

The new library will be built up on a knoll in the city-owned Nobel Athletic Park. The 15,900-square-foot North UC Branch will include a large children's area, meeting and conference rooms, and a computer lab.

At the same time that they broke ground on the new library, the mayor and councilmembers launched construction on a complete rebuilding of Nobel Athletic Park, including a new 10,000-square-foot recreation center, ball fields, an off-leash area of dogs, two parking lots and numerous other improvements.

"The new North UC Branch will be a major asset to the community and benefit the thousands of residents in the surrounding area," said Councilmember Peters. "The library will be a major educational and recreational center for future generations as well."

Located at the intersection of Nobel and Shoreline drives, the \$17.1 million project - including the library and recreation center - has been designed by Platt/Whitelaw Architects Inc., with additional architectural design by Fields Devereaux. The general contractor on the project is C.E. Wiley Construction. Construction is scheduled to be completed in mid-2005.

"The city is committed to moving forward to improve our library system," said Councilmember Madaffer. "We opened a new Point Loma-Hervey Branch in 2003, and the expanded La Jolla-Riford Branch this spring. We broke ground on the College-Rolando and Otay Mesa/Nestor branches earlier this year. We plan to break ground on a total of four library projects this year."

The city's library building program calls for building 13 new libraries and expanding 11 existing branches over the next 10 years.

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